

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of 1-32 and 55-60 in the reply filed on 8/24/2007 is acknowledged.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Enter the following amendment to the claims:

Cancel claims 33-54 and 61-116.

Remarks: Claims 33-54 and 61-116 are cancelled. The applicant elected without traverse to prosecute claims 1-32 and 55-60,

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 1-32 and 55-60:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 1 and 57 is the inclusion of signal generator operable, when energised by an alternating excitation signal, to generate an alternating response signal of predetermined but unknown frequency and whose amplitude varies in dependence upon the difference in frequency between the excitation signal and the response signal. It is this/these features found in the claim(s), as they are

claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this/these claim(s) allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2-32 and 55-56 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 58-60 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 57.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ely et al. (USPN 6667740 &6888538) teaches a position sensor.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ADITYA S. BHAT whose telephone number is (571)272-2270. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/AB/
Art Unit 2863
March 31, 2008

/John E Barlow Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 2863